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### DRAM 352.01: Master Electrician for the Stage

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# **Master Electrician**

Course #: Drama 352  
Time: Lecture- Fridays 11:10-2:00  
Production Work - As assigned  
  
Room: PARTV 131 and McGill 213  
Instructor: DJ Selmeyer, PARTV 131  
406-546-4999 (For emergency use only)  
  
Text: *Backstage Handbook*, Paul Carter

## Course Description:

This course is designed to offer students the introductory knowledge and skills it takes to perform the duties of Master Electrician for Drama/Dance productions. The role of an M.E will be discussed and students will learn to use computer design programs in addition to gaining knowledge and hands-on skills related to the work of an M.E. It must be understood that the role of an M.E. varies greatly per show so flexibility, critical thinking, and self-motivation will be emphasized.

## Course Objectives:

This course will prepare students to work as Master Electrician for Drama/Dance productions and give them practical experience in this position. Through a combination of lecture and hands on experience, students will be able to use computer based lighting design and paperwork programs, fix and maintain instruments, and use electricity safely while working with modern lighting control systems. Students will also practice leading groups in hang/focus/troubleshooting exercises.

## Grading:

Grading is based on attendance, tests, and production assignments.  
Attendance/Participation: 40%  
Production Assignment: 40%  
Tests: 20%

## Attendance Policy:

Attendance is extremely important! It is assumed that you will attend all classes, as the amount of material covered each day will be significant and important. Students must make every effort to attend class and absolutely must complete production assignments.

## Schedule of Classes:

<u>DATE</u>		<u>CLASS TOPICS</u>
1/26	(Light Shop)	Intro and Production Assignments
2/2	(McGill 213)	Paperwork, Plots, & Show Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Inst Types/Unit Numbers/Special Considerations</li><li>- Intro To Vectorworks Spotlight</li></ul>
2/9	(McGill 213)	Vectorworks & Lightwright <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Creating a plot from scratch and exporting to LW</li><li>- Homework – All lightwright tutorials</li></ul>
2/16	(McGill 213)	Vectorworks & Lightwright <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Editing in Lightwright in UM style</li><li>- Printing paperwork and exporting back to Vectorworks</li></ul>
2/23	(McGill 213)	Vectorworks & Lightwright <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Finishing small plot in UM style</li><li>- Homework – Big plot assignment</li></ul>
3/2	(McGill 213)	Vectorworks & Lightwright <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Look at big plot assignment and special considerations</li></ul>
3/9	(Light Shop)	Power Theory/Preparing For Hang <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Electricity safety considerations</li><li>- Pre-hang paperwork/instruments/people organization</li></ul>
3/16	(Light Shop)	Instruments & Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Maintaining UM's Inventory of cable and lights</li><li>- Troubleshooting</li></ul>
3/23	(Light Shop)	Troubleshooting/Leading Troubleshooting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fix the light plot in the shop</li></ul>
3/30	(Not Here!)	<b>SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS</b>
4/6	(Light Shop)	Practicals: big and small <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Make a little practical and plan a big one</li></ul>
4/13	(Light Shop)	DMX/Small Touring Show <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-A closer look a modern M.E. work</li></ul>
4/20	(Light Shop)	Catch up if needed.
4/27	(Light Shop)	Review and wrap-up
5/4	(Light Shop)	Last Test

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321).

All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at [www.sfa.umt.edu/drama/index.html](http://www.sfa.umt.edu/drama/index.html).